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MR

20 November 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Leslie C. Dirks
Deputy Director for Science and Technology

FROM:
Assistant Legislative Counsel

SUBJECT: National Climate Program Act

1. Action Requested: None; for your information.
2. Background: On 31 October 1978, President Carter signed into law the National Climate Program Act (P.L. 95-367 - copy attached).

The Act, which commits the Nation to a program designed to improve the Government's understanding of climatic changes, will be implemented under the direction of the Secretary of Commerce with the assistance of policy officers from designated Federal agencies. Those Departments and agencies as designated in Sec. 5(b) (2) of the Act - Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Energy, Interior, State and Transportation; Environmental Protection Agency, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Council on Environmental Quality, the National Science Foundation and the Office of Science and Technology Policy - shall participate in the program through the newly created National Climate Program Office within the Department of Commerce.

Inasmuch as the Act institutes a National Climate Program and thereby calls for domestic data gathering and research, it is unlikely that CIA or other elements of the Intelligence Community will be initially called upon to participate in the program.

It is, however, possible that the methodology utilized in CIA's limited research conducted under the auspices of the DDS&T, might be of some value to the Secretary. This information, being largely unclassified, may at some time be requested by and should, insofar as

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possible, be made available to those responsible for the National Climate Program.

X1 As CIA is not a "designated" Agency, no further action is required unless and until such time as we are called upon to assist the Secretary of Commerce or his designees.

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Attachment

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